



Women's Resource Centre

FUNDING AND WOMEN'S GROUPS IN LONDON

For a copy of this factsheet in large print, Braille, audio or electronic format, contact WRC on 020 7324 3030 or email info@wrc.org.uk

"Supporting women is a key intervention for tackling the problems of poverty and for providing sustainable foundations for economic regeneration...Crucial to investing in women is the strengthening of organisations run by and for women. They are the organisations with the appropriate expertise to respond to women's needs". (p15) 1

INCOME OF ORGANISATIONS

- Half of women's groups operated on less than £100k and 19% on less than £10k per annum.⁸
- 4% of women's groups operate on no funding.²
- 42% of funded groups had 90-100% restricted funding.³
- Just under half of groups received core cost funding.³
- In one study, feminist and campaigning and human rights sectors received only 1% of the total funding received by groups in the study yet were 7% of the cohort.²
- 59% of women's groups had experienced funding crises between 1996 and 2000.²
- Small-mid and mid-large sized organisations were more likely to report a funding crisis than small or large groups.⁴
- "Without targeted programmes to address the previous discrimination encountered by women's organisations in accessing public funds, equality initiatives could be undermined simply because many women's organisations do not have the capacity to respond to the opportunities of policy inclusion".³
- "Funding is always short term even for problems that don't have short term solutions".³
- "Small voluntary organisations appear not to have benefited from the increase in statutory resources flowing to the sector as a whole". (p18) ⁴
- 38% of groups have had to end a service, project or position due to funding cuts.³

EXPENDITURE

- UK general charities contributed £7.2 billion to UK GDP in 2001/02.⁴
- On average, organisations with an income of less than £100k spent 9% more than they earned. The shortfall was generally funded by reserves or loans.⁴

FUNDERS

- "Funders have to consider funding projects longer than 3 years (perhaps 5 years)".³
- "[Funders] encourage/force organisations to work in partnership but do not practice what they preach. They should work with other funders to standardise their application forms and monitoring forms".³
- 37% of the voluntary and community sector's total income comes from the public sector.⁴
- The main funders of women's groups are central and local Government and charitable Trusts.³

REFERENCES

- 1 Riordan, Siobhan. 1999. *Women's Organisations in the UK Voluntary Sector*. Centre for Institute Studies, University of East London. London.
- 2 Soteri, Andri. 2002. *Funding in London Women's Organisations – A First Report*. Centre for Institutional Studies, University of East London. London.
- 3 Women's Resource Centre. 2004. *Survey of Women's Groups in London*. WRC. London. (Unpublished findings).
- 4 National Council of Voluntary Organisations. 2004. *Voluntary Sector Almanac*. NCVO. London.



Women's Resource Centre

Ground Floor East, 33-41 Dallington St, London, EC1V 0BB T: 020 7324 3030

Fx: 020 7324 3050 EMAIL: INFO@WRC.ORG.UK WEB: WWW.WRC.ORG.UK

